

SKYWATCH

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Team

Editor: David Rees

Editorial Address:

92, Hillcrest Road, Offerton, Stockport, Cheshire.

SK2 5SE, England.....

Telephone: 061 - 483 - 4210

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from them, were sent to the Editorial Address.....

.....READERS LETTERS.....

Dear David,

Right now the UFO scene here is very slow. No new UFO Reports have been made for a few months, but I'm sure that there are some that I just haven't heard of yet. During times like these, it has proven valuable in the past to dig for sightings by going into a town and just plain asking around if anyone has heard or seen anything.

Yours, Chris Ruthowski, UFOlogy Research of Manitoba, Canada.....

Dear David,

I was watching Film 78 the other night and Spielberg says he is revising CE3K - an unprecedented action in movies; it will be out next year. All the best, Ken Mitchell, Aketon, West Yorkshire.....

Dear David,

We had a programme on Irish Radio on UFOs about a fortnight ago. Patrick Moore was on it doing his usual ridiculing act of the whole UFO phenomenon (when will he ever learn?) (NEVER - Editor).

Yours sincerely, Steven Gilbourne, Co.Limerick, Irish Republic.....

Dear David

I will be instigating a BUFORA training programme which will be of use to inexperienced members (Investigators - Ed), rather than others. Though later courses will be of an advanced nature. Regards, Larry Dale, Logistics Adviser and National Co-ordinator for BUFORA, Kent. (I hope that in 1979 NUFON can put together a course for would-be investigators - DLR).....

Dear David,

I have read of your MAPIT activities in the local press from time to time and recently saw a MAPIT poster in Stockport Library. Your organisation seems to be doing a good job. As you may know, if you are co-operating with my friends in DIGAP and MUFORA, my involvement in local activities has been minimal for some years now. This stems from my decision to devote my very limited spare time to the analysis of the existing UFO data rather than to investigations of new events. To date this work is summarised in two papers written for the BUFORA conferences in 1976 and 1978 and I have been asked to give a more comprehensive lecture in London next spring. So, as you can guess, I have a lot on my mind at the moment. I have recently done a "one off" investigation for BUFORA and would be pleased to assist your organisation in the same way. Thank you for remembering me. Best wishes for the success of your venture. Roy Dutton, Poynton, Cheshire.....

Dear David,

I am writing to let you know that I enjoyed your excellent article on mystery helicopters that appeared in the Spring 1978 edition of Awareness. This is a subject that I have devoted quite a bit of time investigating, and it is good to see the thoroughness of your work. I hope to hear from you soon. Keep up the good work! Very sincerely, David Fideler, Michigan, USA.....

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UFOS - TRICK OR TREAT

by Betty Wood

Now that the hysterical publicity for the film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" has abated somewhat, one wonders what effect it will have on contact stories in Britain. While the film has not had the impact over here it had in the States, it has reached a lot of people who otherwise would never have given the subject a second thought. Whether this is a good thing or not remains to be seen; certainly the unrealistic and sentimental ending could lull people into a sense of false security - unless of course it is taken as a symbolic plea to accept the unknown with open arms. But this does not seem too wise in the light of current CE stories. Whilst I do not wish to support an exaggerated policy of suspicion and caution towards any possible UFO contacts, it must be admitted that present day CE events do not exactly inspire one with confidence.

The sentimentalists (and I must admit to some leanings myself here) are still hanging on hopefully to the "space brothers" idea - those gentle humanoids of the 1950s, who are so rarely reported nowadays. Have they given up in despair and left us to the not-so-tender mercies of beings who are not so benevolently inclined? Beings who, with their attendant weirdo robots, don't appear to care a scrap about the feelings and sensitivities of the people they grab for some undignified medical or genetic experiment. Rather like some of us, with animals! Chickens coming home to roost, maybe.

Or is it all some odd sociological phenomenon related to the mysterious workings of human thought and the strange tides of the collective unconscious? Many researchers are pointing out the Freudian implications behind some of the contact stories, and the fact that the collective fears and frustrations due to the threats and breakdowns in world affairs, changing public moralities and all the attendant complications may also add their portion. Maybe at a deep level this is all affecting the mental equilibrium of mankind, causing widespread hallucinations and/or projected thought forms encompassing the scientific and technical outlook of the times. Or are we being 'got at' through a programme of confusion and mental intimidation, wrought by some alien race of beings with the intention of our gradual overthrow and enslavement for purposes of their own? If so, it may well be they are doing us a good turn in spite of themselves, for our technology, at least, seems to be advancing rapidly along science fiction lines. It is thus very unfortunate that as yet so few academics and scientists are interested enough to make a serious study of the subject, as it could include almost every scientific discipline. Even for those who consider it simply a psychological or sociological phenomenon, it would surely hold out possibilities of an immense leap forward in human understanding and psychology.

I am particularly interested at present in certain aspects of shamanism and folklore, which appear to have many parallels in common with UFO activity. A writer who has provoked much thought in this direction is Carlos Castaneda, whose by now well known 'Don Juan' books have set off quite a following amongst New Age Thinkers as well as orthodox anthropologists, although not necessarily in the subject of UFOs. However, even he has been dubbed a 'trickster' in the archetypal sense and thus takes his place alongside the UFO as a Trickster symbol. For all that, and whether one accepts his books as fact, fiction or fable there is no doubt that they incorporate many well-authenticated shamanistic practices.

For those not already acquainted with these works Carlos Castaneda was a young anthropologist who, in the 1960's, claims to have been tricked by a Yaqui Indian sorcerer into becoming his apprentice. Some of the eerie adventures his mentor Don Juan involves him in are very characteristic of certain types of UFO happenings. Ominous thunderings would sound around the desert just prior to a manifestation of a strange type of entity known as an 'ally'. An 'ally' would appear to be a form of natural energy that can take on any form it likes - plant, mineral, animal, the appearance of a human being or even something totally alien. While this energy may arise from something exterior to the observer, it could equally well be an extension of the human psyche brought about by certain psychomagical practices. Many UFO contactees have reported strange rumblings from the sky before an encounter with UFOs or 'spacemen'. It could be that these rumblings, like the well-known whistling and buzzing noises that often accompany ghostly or psychic manifestations, presage a change of consciousness. Likewise the feeling that everything has "stopped" - i.e. no birds, cars, sounds, etc.

While the 'Don Juan' books do tend to be issued on a 'cliffhanger' basis, which leaves one somewhat anxious for the next instalment, many of the shamanistic practices described therein can be checked from other, perhaps better authenticated material. For example, in the book Autobiography of a Yogi by Paramhansa Yogananda, the author tells of visits by his deceased teacher and others, who arrived in golden spheres of light, floating down from the sky very much in the manner of the average LITS. This could of course have been a subjective experience but one can speculate endlessly here. Again this is paralleled in Celtic tradition and one case history in Evans-Wentz' book The Fairy Faith in Celtic Countries describes the sighting of 'fairy people' who drift down in globes of light. As regards 'allies', in I.M. Lewis's book Ecstatic Religion are shown pictures drawn by an Eskimo Iglulik shaman, which describes entities which "though terrifying and frightening in their natural state, can be captured and tamed by shamans and thus transformed into benevolent 'helpers' spirits' or familiars. I don't suggest, however, that you go after the average UFO occupant with butterfly net and chloroform pad! Shamans often demonstrate their powers by spinning up into the sky and descending with a falling-leaf motion - very UFO-like!

There have also been a number of instances where 'spacemen' have been seen apparently encased in a transparent sphere. The drawings by the Eskimo shaman also bear resemblance to beings described by people who have experienced bizarre UFO contacts. But here again, if the Castaneda books are anything to go by descriptions of an entity seem to vary very much with the witnesses - to each his own nightmare in fact.

Some people see angels, of course - and a parallel story in the Bible is that of Jacob wrestling with the angel which is very akin to the shaman's struggle with an 'ally' who, once overcome, thereafter helps and protects his conqueror.

This ability of 'allies' to take on any shape reminds me of the story from Australia of the man whose car was invaded by a strange UFO presence which informed him that it could appear as "anything you like". The shamans warn of death and injury when entangling with 'allies' - and these also seem possibilities when encountering UFOs and their crews. In some cases, however, contactees are set off in some new positive path in life, or are healed of a longstanding disability; whilst others suffer drastic physical effects which end in mental and physiological disorder. Is this all part of a policy of confusion or does it depend on our individual makeup as to which type of "close encounter" we are likely to experience?

Medical examinations and the hand-gathering of various specimens of earth flora and fauna do not seem consistent with advanced technology - all this could easily be carried out by remote control. Is it all done for effect, or it is a subjective or objective mental

experience which like stigmata manifests in a physical sense? Under deep hypnosis a subject can exhibit blisters and all manner of physical symptom, see things that aren't there, and be able to perform actions which normally he could not carry out. I personally know of a case where in trance and mentally reliving a trek across wet fields a subject's boots became filled with muddy water and his socks had to be wrung out! The shamans know they can achieve these effects, although possibly not how, and we are gradually enlarging our own horizons by such methods as hypnosis, biofeedback, and various types of meditation and change of consciousness techniques. The future appears to hold many exciting possibilities and could it be that in one respect the UFO experience is urging us on? Or are they just playing with us, trick or treat?

Meanwhile, what is happening to us now? Strange UFO contact stories still flow in and even in Britain now we are getting reports of UFO kidnappings and medical examinations. It is even being suggested that anyone having just a mundane LITS sighting should ask themselves whether they have suffered a time-lapse or not; who knows, they may have been picked up, whirled through the UFO equivalent of a medical scanner, debriefed with appropriate memory blank and deposited back on planet earth again, wondering wherever that missing half-hour went to! It makes one question whether some of the very vivid UFO dream experiences have any basis in fact! But the crunchy question is, are people actually whirled physically aloft or it is all just a mental experience? Would, for instance, an impartial witness see them frozen to the spot and in a trancelike state while their peak experience is going on at some other level?

In Celtic tradition the fairies got blamed for everything - they were always luring poor mortals away into their mounds for a bit of a song and dance and the victims would eventually stumble out, dazed and amnesic, with anything from a few hours, days or years missing from their lives. However, we don't get lured into UFOs for a bit of song and dance these days - far from it! And, except for the early 1950's days, there are no lovely ladies or handsome spacemen to make our stay more entrancing. So why have the ghoulies taken over?

Well, as I said earlier, it may be that the 'good guys' have given us up as hopeless and have left the 'bad guys' to see what they can do. Or maybe it's that old fellow the Trickster figure, the archetype who has plagued mankind since its beginning manifesting through mortals such as George Adamski and Carlos Castaneda and through such phenomena as the Loch Ness Monster and UFOs. One never seems to get the answer because there isn't one. "It's that old Trickster again" say the Red Indian legends when once more people have been made to look foolish. But they've learnt something valuable as well.

All we can do at present is to keep alert and watch events and maybe bring together more pieces of the puzzle. Each idea or theory being presented extends our mental visibility that little bit more and even if arrant nonsense or a hoax it might set someone off on the right tack. But of course...if it is the Trickster, then we have a long and merry dance ahead of us which will no doubt have its painful moments. We'll just have to rely on our wits to get us out of the fairy mound, ignore the fairy dust thrown in our eyes, and really get wise to ourselves!

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SKYWATCHES - MY PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT WITH THEM. by D.J.Goring, Essex UFO Study Group.

Organised skywatches amongst UFO groups are a common activity and form, I feel, quite an important part of any group's agenda.

When I acted as my own group's Skywatch Officer, I received more enquiries about the date of the next Skywatch than I did for anything else. It is obviously everyone's desire to see one of these phantom UFOs and newcomers especially seem to feel that something not far short of a pre-arranged rendezvous has been made with our flying friends, and I am sometimes still asked, "What will we see and whereabouts in the sky will it be?" Then again, there are others who feel that skywatches - or nightwatches, as some people prefer to call them - have a slightly different meaning from that which one might think. On a number of well-advertised watches which were well attended (in excess of 40 people), the participants thought that there was going to be a lecture - and virtually demanded a lecture - on the subject of UFOs just like a group meeting. On one or two other occasions many people who attended acted like (or were) tourists, and they expected a guided tour of landing sites, etc.

On one embarrassing skywatch I remember everyone left at 12 45 Sunday morning but unknown to us a large group of people who, we found out later wanted to come along, did so at 1.30 the same morning! Of course no one was there to greet them! There is no set time to the finish of our skywatches and we find that 90% of the people disappear by about 1.00 a.m. anyway, so it was a rare surprise to hear of a group of people turning up at 1.30 am.

Skywatching, of course, simply means searching the heavens for UFOs but it is a sad fact that UFOs are very rarely seen on skywatches - except at places like Warminster, perhaps. Even so, skywatches are not a total waste of time. First, they are tremendous social affairs - some people only socialise under certain circumstances, and the British are not the greatest of people at speaking to strangers. I have noticed that a number of the group's members are only ever seen on skywatches for they are more keen to catch a glimpse of our extra-terrestrial visitors than to hear a dull old lecture about some part of the subject. Many non-members, when the advertising is extensive, attend, and some of these often end up becoming members. Then, of course, we hear about other people's UFO sightings, sightings which they wouldn't have told anyone else about even anonymously over the phone. In fact, one of the best sightings I've ever heard of came as a result of a skywatch!

Then there are those people who condemn skywatches because they feel that there is no sense standing around looking at the sky for hours on end at the top of some lonely hill out in the country. - to say nothing of freezing to death in the process! Admittedly, one does have to suffer some discomforts, but the rewards that can be gained should be considered. As to the skywatching itself, one has to be very careful at times. There was one skywatch we held where a yellowish-white light just hung in the sky for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour and this really had us jumping for joy - until it began to move ever so slowly across the sky at a fairly low elevation. Even then we weren't really sure what to make of it, but finally we made out a winking red light and sure enough it turned out to be an aircraft. On another occasion, an aircraft banked towards us and its landing lights lit up the whole area - even though it was miles away - that sure did look spectacular! Things that move nearly always turn out to be natural phenomena - artificial satellites, astronomical phenomena, and a host of other natural paraphernalia bug the skywatcher - the less experienced he or she is the more difficult it becomes to distinguish between the natural.....and the unknown!

FILM REVIEW - CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND PETER HILL - AMR, MWSOM, FSS

Written and directed by Steven Spielberg Featuring Richard Dreyfuss and Francois Truffaut Music by John Williams. Visual effects by Douglas Trumbull. Produce by Julia Phillips and Michael Phillips. Columbia Pictures (A certificate)

Spielberg's epic is much more than another space fiction film Steven Spielberg has not only achieved a life-long ambition by making a film on the UFO enigma. He has made a film which is affecting opinion wherever it is seen. That he chose fiction as his medium for a serious theme is not without precedent.

Hogarth illustrated the terrible conditions of his time through painting. Dickens exposed the evils of Victorian poverty through the novel while Voltaire, Swift, Shaw and Orwell used satire as a medium for what they wanted to put across. This can achieve the attention of an audience which rarely views a documentary or reads non-fiction. In the hands of such artists as these, the chosen media can be extremely powerful ways of influencing opinion.

It should not be thought that, as this film is fiction, it is less important. Through suggestion, imagery and superb visual effect, it broadens the mind, opens up new patterns of thought and has a potentially profound effect on opinion. There is little doubt that this film has made the phenomenon more widely understood and accepted.

I doubt if opinion will ever be the same again. The criticisms of some ufologists of the ambivalent behaviour of the unonauts is invalid. It has been said more than once that we would not understand them. This film is important and impressive.

CIA IS SUED OVER UFOs

A court battle to make the CIA reveal all it knows about flying saucers visits to earth has been launched by an American lawyer, Mr. Henry Rothblatt - who defended the Watergate burglars - claims the CIA has been withholding vital facts since it started files on the saucer mystery in 1952. He says he was refused the information on the grounds that it would threaten national security.

Mr. Rothblatt is suing the CIA in a Brooklyn court on behalf of Ground Saucer Watch Incorporated, an organisation dedicated to solving the UFO mystery. 'The public are entitled to the truth', he said.

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FRANCE AIDS PRESIDENT CARTER'S UFO RESEARCH

President Carter valiantly battles on against the tremendously powerful interests (both communist and capitalist) that smother UFO truths, and news.

He failed to get the U.N. to investigate, when he was represented by Sir Eric Gairy, Prime Minister of Grenada;

he failed even to get his own NSA to re-open the UFO file;

both stories are reported above.

Now he still tries to release UFO facts, and has turned to the French government for help. In 1974, France became the ninth government openly to announce that UFO's were "not of earth technology, and constitute no danger to the earth's environment or its inhabitants."

"A major UFO probe has been launched in France, backed by the nation's top defense chiefs - and the United States will assist in the programme. In addition, all French universities and space research organisations have been ordered to devote time and personnel to the top priority study.

The French study is another large-scale probe of the UFO phenomenon in addition to the Air Force's Operation Blue Book UFO study, closed in 1969. The study has been given the backing of the Defense Ministry, and shows just how seriously the French government is taking the rash of sighting reports.

The French have assigned one of their top space experts to head the probe. Meanwhile, after President Carter's remark about sighting a UFO, the US government has received such a deluge of letters that it may launch its own full scale UFO probe. The remark was made during the Carter presidential campaign, and prompted hundreds of letters from people who said they had also seen UFOs."

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National Enquirer - 1st March 1977

"WHY I BELIEVE IN UFO's" by Leonard Nimoy (Star Trek)

I believe in FO's because so many qualified observers and solid people have reported sightings that just can't just be dismissed. I've talked with Travis Walton, a young Arizona man who claimed he was actually taken aboard a UFO. I felt he was being truthful. And on my new syndicated TV series "In search of....." we talked to members of the Phil Baker family of Mellen, Wisconsin. I was very impressed with their account of sighting a UFO on the ground near their home. They seemed to be quite down to earth - very real - not at all insincere.

I believe there has got to be some validity to a number of these UFO sightings. I'm interested! I'm Curious! Twice a year I go on lecture tours and people always ask me: "Do you believe in UFOs?" I tell them I've never seen one myself, but I believe there is life on other planets. And I believe it is possible that we have been visited or being visited now".

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RUSSIAN UFO REPORT - National Spotlight - Vol 12 - No.9 - April 1977

"The Russian secret police have an espionage problem. UFOs are spying in the Soviet Union and over 300 of the UFOs have been reported. While the existence of UFOs has been officially frowned on by the Kremlin, the Russian people know differently, just like their American counterparts.

A clandestine report has been circulated by a group of people investigating the phenomenon of UFOs in Russia. 'In the U.S.S.R. there exists a damper on all kinds of publications about UFOs', the report says. In one sighting, the report says, a UFO hovered over the city of Nalchik for 36 hours and was seen by thousands of people. In another, passengers of an airliner going from Vorkuta to Omsk saw a UFO following their plane. In a sighting near Moscow, a UFO was seen over the railroad crossing at Golytsino, about 30 miles west of the Russian capital. People were excited, auto engines stalled and other strange things happened while the alien craft was there.

The government attributes these sightings and belief in UFOs to 'rumours' and 'propaganda'. But the intelligentsia of the country refuse to be taken in by this official hogwash. They have decided to present the truth to the people in their report, which has the government worried.

When asked what would happen if a UFO landed in Russia, one Russian official said: "We would arrest them and send them off to Siberia". The startling admission is typical of the Soviet police mentality, if you can't solve a problem, you just throw it in jail. Still it's an interesting notion, though the secret police have to 'arrest' a UFO first".

CREDIT:- BRYAN HARTLEY.

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GROUP NEWS

This issue of Skywatch celebrates its 5th Anniveesary. Skywatch started as a one-page Newsheet and had a limited circulation way back in 1973. Since then Skywatch has grown slowly and is read throughout Great Britain by UFOlogists and UFO Groups. It is also sent to 23 countries around the world. These countries include amongst others:- USA, Poland, Tasmania, Denmark, Spain, Columbia, etc. This publication has only managed to survive via its many contributors throughout the years - people like Jenny Randles of UFOIN and NUFON; Betty Wood of BUFORA; Dan Goring of Earthlink and many more. May I say to ALL you readers who have helped me in the past as Editor, a Great Big THANKYOU for your support. Since Skywatch began many other magazines have disappeared for various reasons, e.g. Gemini, Perception, Intrepid, Skylink, Spacelink, Fountain Journal, etc. In Britain we are lucky to have one of the World's best magazines, namely Flying Saucer Review - which has been published since the 1950's - but a very important part of UFOlogy in any country is the way in which its work is presented to interested persons via local Group Magazines like Earthlink, Northern UFO News, UFO Research Review, Commentary. These limited (by this I mean moneywise) but valuable publications have to survive to keep people up to date with UFO events. I only hope that in another five years (1983) Skywatch is still around - if it isn't, it won't be for lack of trying.

Not much news this issue, some UFO sightings have been reported to us and are under investigation at this moment. Full reports will appear in Future issues. Well, this is the last issue of Skywatch during 1978 and as Editor of Skywatch I would like to wish all MAPIT members and SW Readers a Happy Christmas and also a peaceful New Year for 1979.

See you again in '79. -----David Rees.

BELIEVING IS SEEING - Jenny Randles

SKYWATCH has come a long way in five years. When it began in September 1973 I don't suppose either Dave Rees or myself envisaged how it would grow. Credit must go to Dave for bringing this about. Skywatch is now regarded highly as a lively and informant publication. I for one hope to see its 10th anniversary.

I have not had any direct contact with SKYWATCH or MAPIT since 1975, although Dave and I have remained friends and continued our liaison via NUFON. This has mostly been brought about by my own motivations within the subject. At first I needed to concentrate on the development of NUFON, since the creation of a network of cooperation between 18 local groups is no simple matter in face of the much present apathy of many 'active' ufologists. Since this managed to get off the ground and run itself quite smoothly by its own momentum I have moved outwards into new territories. This began with writing a book, along with colleague Peter Warrington - which in itself was time consuming as there was never any intention of writing 'just another UFO book' - this one had to say something different - something I knew needed saying but still required a lot of effort to extract from within, crystallise and finally encapsulate. Finally, I have moved into an administrative role with the highly respected and long standing journal FLYING SAUCER REVIEW. Organising investigation teams nationwide for FSR, as I now do, is certainly time consuming, but also very rewarding.

As I have changed and SKYWATCH and MAPIT has developed so too has the UFO phenomenon. I do not think it is wise to decide upon the answer to the UFO mystery before one has even begun to look. This is all too common a procedure. Nearly everyone comes in prejudiced in some way, usually to the belief that UFOs are extraterrestrial spaceships. OK - so they may be, but you have to bear in mind that they may not be also. I have seen my viewpoints metamorphose over the years, and who am I to say they will not do so yet again.

There are many important little clues about the hidden nature of the UFO phenomenon. One has to be able to seek them out and then view them for what they are, and not for what one would like them to be. For the rest of this article I should just like to refer to one, in recognition of the fact that it is but one of many that have added together in my head to completely alter my conception of what we are seeking. It can best be illustrated in response to a question that Dave Rees posed to me to answer, in print, in a series I was writing for PULSAR magazine. The magazine went defunct, so I never got chance to answer it - but will here try. The question was, "Why are UFOs so interested in children?", but I think it should be rephrased to be "Why do some people experience more UFO events than others?"

UFOs are seen by all kinds of people. literally from Dukes to Dustbinmen, but it is important to try to understand why some people seem more likely to see a UFO than others.

Often a witness will see something strange and then take an interest in the sky. He will look out for all manner of aerial mysteries and will see them. He will then, quite innocently, report stars, satellites and even the moon, as a UFO. This is not what we are talking about. The real "repeater" witness (the person to whom the UFO experience is not a once in a lifetime event) is an entirely different proposition.

Repeater Witnesses often have a background of peculiar experiences - psychic phenomena such as premonitions or ghostly apparitions for example. A famous example in the recent literature is Mrs. Joyce Bowles who had such a build-up series of events, which included the sighting of a 'spaceman' around the house, before she had her famous encounters and abduction along with Ted Pratt in November and December 1976. This type of situation seems to tell us something important about the nature of the UFO phenomenon.

Quite honestly it ought to tell us that the close encounters that these people experience are personally orientated. Perhaps the whole mechanism for the UFO experience comes from within ourselves. This seems the only feasible manner for explaining why there is witness selectivity and a heavy inter-relationship with personal psychic powers. It really comes down to this question of choice. If a psychic person bends a piece of metal do we believe that HE is doing this (possibly by channeling energy in some way) or do we believe that some space entity is doing it for him. Obviously there is a choice, but the logical answer seems to me to be readily apparent. The analogy with these UFO witnesses seems clear to me. This whole theme is developed in our book "UFOs: A British Viewpoint" (published by Robert Hale, London - just after Christmas).

Now I am not here proposing that only psychic people see UFOs. Obviously this is not the case. Precisely what I am proposing is too complex to explain here and is best left to the book. However, clearly there is a correlation between degree of sensitivity of a witness and the level of closeness of the encounter. Remember the story of British Rail worker Jack Allen (SKYWATCH No.27) He is a true repeater witness with many bizarre encounters under his belt. Formerly his stories would have been treated with scepticism by many ufologists. People just could not see UFOs that often, just the same as you can walk out on the streets and find a £5 note once, but not every other day. However, the UFO experience appears to be just as 'real' to the repeater witness as it does to those who only ever see one thing. It is a definition of reality that we are lacking.

Over the past few years I have met several UFO witnesses who would be regarded as fruit and nut cases by many ufologists simply by nature of what they claim. All too often this is erroneously judged on whether or not it fits in with that particular ufologists's theories. However, I am quite sure that they are no more daft than the person who sees a simple light in the sky. The greater intensity of their experience is due to their personal makeup. Quite frankly I would now be willing to reject out of hand virtually nothing, whilst being sceptical of the objective reality of virtually everything. Obviously fabrications exist and we must serve to discover and expose them, but everything is feasible, and it is most unwise to reject a story because it seems nonsensical. UFOS ARE NONSENSICAL!

Returning to the theme of the original posed question it is certainly true that there have been a large number of child/UFO encounters - particularly during the 1977 UK wave. Think, as examples, of the South Wales school sightings (FSR Vol 23-1), the children's home encounter in Marple, Cheshire, (FSR Vol 23-4) or the Wawne, Humberside sightings. Even close encounters of the third kind have happened to children (e.g. the New Elgin, Scotland, encounter in FSR Vol 23-4) Yet the question could be said to be "why do children see UFOs more often than adults in some instances?" I think there are several reasons, and it is not necessary that we propose an intelligence taking a direct interest in these kids - although that may, of course, be true.

Probably, many people will believe that children only report UFOs more frequently. This is true in part. Of course, children fantasise more often than adults and have very vivid imaginations. Certainly they may misidentify strange things quite easily, but I doubt if this is more so than anyone else. The relative inexperience of younger people is counterbalanced by their greater interest and knowledge in things such as space and aircraft. I doubt if more than the average number of hoax reports stem from children. What is more likely is that children suffer less from the inhibitions of reporting a UFO experience, and we are therefore far more likely to hear about their stories.

This apart, I believe that there are some grounds to believe that there are more sightings by children because they are more sensitive. The bearing and eyesight of a human being deteriorates with age. We know that children can in general hear and see things much better than an adult. There is every reason to support that other faculties (such as any psychic facilities that

that may be responsible for UFO experiences) are similarly suppressed with an increase in age. Often I have wondered why in a reasonably close sighting children hear a humming noise whereas adults often do not. It seems to be connected with sensitivities, and perhaps this also extends to actually seeing a UFO because children are more sensitive to this too.

All in all, it is my contention that people experience the UFO phenomenon in a personal fashion - and are possibly even personally responsible for its existence. For many people the adage "to see is to believe" applies to the UFO mystery. However, when we consider the bizarre nature of some of the reports that we receive and yet the apparent acceptability of them we may be forced to look upon matters in a slightly different way. Perhaps it is really a question of whatever we believe we see!

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From: Gloria Saville, The Essex UFO Study Group, 16 Raydons Road, Dagenham, Essex.

UFOs - THE SPIRITUAL CONNECTION?

I have been asked by Dave Rees, kindly but rashly, to write a short article on any aspect of Ufology for "Skywatch", so here goes. The following thoughts are my own personal ones, and may be entirely incorrect.

I have no answers about UFOs themselves, and after reading numerous writings and reports on the subject, am confused, but convinced of their existence. Since being involved with the EUFOSG I have been very impressed by the quality of the UFO witnesses I have met, the majority of them being very rational, calm, observant people.

As I am very interested in the spiritual side of life (not religious, which is often vastly different), I am interested in the connection between this and UFOs.

It is logical that as there is room on our small planet for myriads of different life forms, there must be an even greater variety of life forms elsewhere in our universe and perhaps other universes. How little we really know about anything.

I think that Earth is probably one of the milder hells and that after learning all we can on this planet, in different lives, wearing different personalities but with the same soul or spirit as a core which is the learning part, we can progress to a higher plane or planet, with different lessons to be learnt. Alternatively, perhaps we can 'fall' to a lower plane or planet - Hell?

I believe some UFOs may come from a higher plane and some from lower planes, where they may be technologically more advanced than ourselves, but not spiritually. We all as individuals progress at different rates in different aspects of ourselves, so why not other beings on other worlds. The higher beings could help us in every conceivable way, if we let them land and live. Remember Jesus's fate!

Why haven't the evil ones taken us over yet? Perhaps they have to obey certain laws which we don't know of - and not interfere with our free will.

The thought has occurred to many people that perhaps the Bible prophecy: "During the last days there will be signs in the skies, earthquakes, etc.etc" is coming true and that the UFOs are the heralds of the last days. All the prophecies foretell the period 1980-2000 as being the end of the World as we now know it. Cheer up, after this period they also all say that there will be a new Golden Age, perhaps for those who have deserved it?

You must agree that the spiritual side of Ufology has been greatly neglected and it may turn out to be the most significant.

Gloria Saville

SIGHTINGS ' ' ' ' ' SIGNTINGS.

Date: 7th October 1978

Location: Lancashire Hill, Stockport.

Time: 18.20 hours.

Statement as told by Witness: "I was drawing my curtains back and I saw what I thought at first was a plane, very high in the sky, leaving a trail of smoke. But after watching it for a few minutes I realised that it was not a plane at all. The sky was clear with patchy cloud around and some rain showers. Thus the sky was blue with the white cloud and blacker clouds with rain. The object crossed the blue and white then went and descended into the black cloud. I don't know whether anyone else saw it. It was cigar shaped and silver in colour. It disappeared from view at 18.35 hours. (A full investigation is being conducted on this case).....

The Manchester Evening News of the 20th March 1978 revealed that the sighting of a 7 ft tall 'Spaceman' at Risley, near Warrington, the previous weekend was one of several in the area. One man claims he saw the figure while he was driving home from Manchester in the early hours.....

British Columbia sighting at 21.30 hours. 6 April 1976 at Chiliwack..... Elizabeth Van Saane and her two brothers reported seeing an oblong object with flickering coloured lights - blue, red and yellow in the Western position of the sky. Ms. Van Saane later viewed the UFO through binoculars and described the object as being rectangular in shape. However, she was unable to make out any other details due to the objects distance. Her two brothers reported similar details according to statements taken by the RCMP (Credit: UFO Canada Vol 2 No 5 Summer 1978).....

Bempton Sighting in Humberside at 23.00 hrs on August 10 1978... Over a period of two hours a series of blue/white lights were seen to cross the sky in zig zag directions. One light stopped overhead for several minutes before vanishing. At the first sighting 4 objects converged from several directions and then split apart and shot off. Some of the observations were undoubtedly Satellites. Credit: Northern UFO News No.93 - October 1978).....

MORE MAPIT INVESTIGATIONS NEXT ISSUE.

UFOs IN POLAND by Marek S Iwaniec.

In May 1978 a farmer from a village of Emilcin near Lublin in SE Poland, his name was Jan Wolski, in a forest he met two strange creatures with green faces and wearing tight black overalls. These creatures took him into a very strange object that was hanging in the air, he was examined and afterwards set free. The same object was seen by two children; they saw it when it was flying over the village nearby the place where Mr. Wolski had his strange encounter. Six more people confirmed they saw strange small footprints on the grass in the site where the encounter allegedly took place.

As it was a remarkable incident here in Poland, a few Scientists were engaged in the exploration of this fact.

"It is rather impossible that the strange meeting was created in Mr. Wolski's imagination as he was examined severally and his answers did not show any contradictions", Mr. Zbigniew Blania, member of the British UFO research Association, said.

Here are some details according to Mr. Wolski: The creatures he met were rather small, about 5 feet with green faces, green hands and what is strange on both sides of each finger they had something that looked like a kind of Membrane or webbing of the fingers. They spoke to each other, but the speech was unknown to the witness; he described it as a kind of continuous "Ta.... Ta.....Ta....Ta...."

The object was about 12 feet above the ground, with the help of a small lift they (the creatures) took Mr. Wolski into the object. There inside he saw two more creatures just as the first two in appearance. One of the creatures ate something similar to an ice cube or icicle. The interior of the ship was completely black and was made with what appeared to be a form of plastic. Near the walls there were 10-12 benches. There were some birds in this room (rooks), they lay on the floor and were alive because sometimes they moved but did not want to fly away. By using arm movements they (the Creatures) told Mr. Wolski to undress completely. He was examined; one of the creatures took something that looked like two small plates, he stood in front of Mr. Wolski and connected them together with a sound of Click. After this they let him go.

(This case first appeared in the Polish Weekly Przegląd)

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THE LARISSA CASE

Below is a contribution by our new overseas Correspondent Omiros Karajas, who lives in Greece. He is also a Field Investigator for APRO in America.

On the 6 December 1969, a Mr. Doukas and Mr. Goudouvas were coming back from Thessaloniki to Larissa in their car - the time was about 1.20 a.m. The sky was cloudy. When the car with the two of them arrived at the Castle of Platamoy, Mr. Goudouvas was now deeply asleep but was awakened by his friend as he wanted to show him a strange phenomenon.

About 700 metres in the sky and under the clouds was a luminous sphere; it was flying over the rail station of Rapsani. The object was about the same size as a full moon and had flames or flashes around it. It sent out an orange-white light which illuminated the area and reflected all the right side of the car. The two men thought it may be a balloon or meteorite but suddenly the object moved to the South East and it stopped over the village of Onoloiy. Then maybe because it came towards the witness's the diameter of the object grew to three times its size. After a few minutes the object moved again and Mr. Doukas tried to follow the object in his car. The object without noise moved right and left, upward and downward leaving a very big flame and moving at a tremendous speed, the car continued the dangerous pursuit toward the narrows of Tempi, while the object was moving toward Kissauros Mount, the witnesses thought that perhaps it may land, but in fact it disappeared behind the Mounts.

Mr. George Balanos representative of APRO and Mr. Christ Eflhsmiopoulos also of APRO went to Larissa to investigate. They interviewed the witnesses and also examined the car. The car was all right except at the right side; it had strange burning marks. The investigators found the Greek Rep of NASA and he confirmed that the Sphere was not a Satellite or part of a rocket. During the investigations a new confirmed series of incident came to light. Many villagers that stayed at Olympus Mount have seen disc shaped objects without wings and without noise, to enter and come out of the Ravines of Olympos. They did not attract too much attention at the time because the people thought these craft were secret kinds of aeroplanes belonging to the Army. Another appearance of a UFO was observed by an Engineer, it took place on 25th July 1970 at 1.30 a.m. at Aigaleo-Kokkinia, Athens. It was a disc shaped object with a pulsating light, after a few minutes four similar objects appeared. The sighting lasted for 10 minutes. When the UFOs did disappear they moved off very fast over the Ymiltos Mountain. In 1971 all the inhabitants of the village of Karafigi saw a strange disc-shaped object and it was illuminated with a yellow-red light. Underneath there were two blue-green shafts of light. The UFO was again moving at a tremendous speed (approx. 10km per sec). All the animals in the area were in a state of fright. Suddenly the object lowered and maybe landed, but the inhabitants found nothing. Included in the witnesses was Mr. Dimster Ghtcas - President of the village and Miss Mary Tzella, his Secretary.

On the 1st May 1977 Chris Chrichton himself went to the village to uncover as much information as possible - all the people said the same as I've written above but Mary Tzella changed all the things. One of the things she said was that the animals were not affected! I don't know why she should do this.

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ADVERTISEMENTS

NORTHERN UFO NEWS: Publication of the Northern UFO Network, Monthly.
Write to: Miss Jenny Randles, 23 Sunningdale Avenue, Irlam, Greater Manchester M30 6NJ.....

COMMENTARY: Published by UFORUM, a good little magazine well worth reading.
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SKYWATCH: Back issues available and special issue No.2 Write for details

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KENT UFO NEWS BULLETIN

Publication of the Cosmic Society Research Consortium.
16 St.George's Place, Dymchurch Road, Palmmarsh, Hythe, Kent.

IMPORTANT EDITORIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

From next issue the Kent UFO News Bulletin will be merged with the UFO Phenomena News Bulletin, publication of the Norfolk & National UFO Investigation Society.

The new magazine thus formed will be called the Unexplained Phenomena News Bulletin. This will be approximately eight pages long and will appear four times a year. Current subscriptions to KUFONB will be switched to the new magazine. Due to the greater cost of the new magazine, though, subscribers will only receive the first issue, regardless of when they first subscribed to KUFONB. The only exceptions are those American subscribers who sent us cash (£1.00 note) who will continue to receive UPNB until their money runs out.

The provisional price ~~set~~ for the magazine is £1.20 for four issues, but we must emphasise that this is only provisional. We are unlikely to be able to reduce the cost any further due to the tremendous increase in the price of photo-copying which will probably be the means of producing the first few issues of UPNB. However, we hope to find a cheaper means of production as soon as possible.

We hope you will continue to support us, and promise you that UPNB will have as high a standard as any group publication, with the possible exception of MUFON and BUFORA!

UPNB will have international news coverage of UFOs and will contain well written articles concerning all aspects of the UFO and other mysterious phenomena. We sincerely hope that UPNB will meet with all our readers' approval. The first issue will appear in July.

KRUPTOS: French magazine dealing with UFOs - Fortean events Write to: B.P.No.114, 69643
Caluire France.

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QUOTES AND NOTES

The pyramids themselves rotting with age have forgotten the names of their founders.
- Thomas Fuller (1601 - 16 61)

There is nothing new except what has been forgotten - Marie Antoinette

The most beautiful thing we can witness is the mysterious. He to whom this emotion is a
stranger, who can no longer pause to wonder and stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead;
his eyes are closed.

- Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

We all know UFOs are real, the question is, where do they come from?

- Capt.Ed.Mitchell (US Astronaut
and the 6th man on the moon)

George Lucas, Director of Star Wars talking about Stanley Kubricks Epic Film - 2001 - A
Space Odyssey, "Stanley Kubrick made the ultimate science fiction movie and it is going
to be very hard for someone to come along and make a better movie, as far as I'm concerned.
On a Technical level, it can be compared, but personally I think that 2001 is far superior".

From Hollywood we hear that the endearing little boy from Close Encounters of the Third Kind,
Gary Guffey, is to be the starette of a new film by the same director, wonderboy Steve
Spielberg. It's called AFTER SCHOOL and it's about kids playtime activities. Like making
movies?

Ray Bradbury's science fiction classis, The Martian Chronicles is to be made as a six-
million dollar television classis - and the BBC will be one of the international partners
in the project. The three two hour episodes will be financed by the American NBC network
and the German based film and TV Company Polytel as well as the BBC. Rock Hudson will
play the lead in the story of American astronaut Captain Wilder, on the planet Mars, as it
is colonised by earthmen Bradbury's book has been translated into 20 languages and has
sold 10 million copies. Director will be Britain's Michael Anderson whose credits
include Around the World in eighty Days and the Sci Fi movie Logans Run. The screenplays
will be by Richard Matheson who wrote The Incredible Shrinking Man